

August 27, 1953

To: U - General Smith
Through: S/S
From: EUR - Mr. Merchant
Subject: Suggested Merger of PSB D-40 and D-45 Working Groups

Discussion:

For some months now two separate inter-agency working groups have been attempting to implement PSB D-40, concerned with the exploitation of Stalin's death, and PSB D-45 concerning the exploitation of satellite unrest in Europe.

The existence of two PSB papers and two separate working groups on such closely related and overlapping problems has given rise to a certain amount of confusion and duplication. It is our belief that coordination and results would be improved if the implementation of these documents were made the responsibility of a single inter-agency working group which would have over-all responsibility for the psychological exploitation of existing and prospective vulnerabilities within the USSR and the Soviet orbit in Europe.

There are, moreover, certain questions, such as the treatment of nationality groups in the Soviet Union, for which neither of the two papers in its present form provides adequate guidance. It seems to us that one of the first tasks of a new single working group would be to review the two papers with the purpose of consolidating objectives and plans in one document, while at the same time endeavoring to include in this document more adequate policy guidance. Towards this end, we believe that State Department representation on the working group should include an officer from EE.

It is recognized that in carrying out this proposal, problems will arise concerning the broadening of representation on the new working group, and also questions with respect to its scope. Should it include Communist China, for example, and should the furtherance of the aims of the President's April 16 speech be included in the terms of reference? We believe that if the principle of the merger is approved the PSB staff and staff representatives of the other agencies, including the State Department, can work out these details satisfactorily.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that you propose in PSB the acceptance in principle of the proposal to merge the two working groups set up under PSB D-40 and D-45 and the preparation of a new PSB paper covering the entire field of the psychological exploitation of Soviet and Soviet orbit weaknesses, it being understood that details will be worked out on a staff level for subsequent approval in PSB itself.

Concurrence:

P - Mr. Phillips

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